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Mobster's home searched again in Boston art heist. 4

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OUTRAGE ON CAMPUS

Police investigating if student distributed neo-Nazi fliers at BU. 2

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

US CRUISE SHIP PULLS INTO HAVANA ON HISTORIC CUBA VOYAGE

1 The first U.S. cruise ship to arrive in Cuba in decades received a warm welcome on Monday from Havana residents who gathered at the wharf in the colonial old city as hundreds of Americans waved from the decks of the ship. It was another first for the two countries since U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced a historic rapprochement in 2014, and comes weeks after Obama's visit to the Caribbean island. Carnival Corp's Adonia, a small ship with a capacity of 700 passengers, slipped through the channel into Havana Bay in the morning under picture-perfect skies, then docked at the colonial old town. A Cuban law prohibiting nationals from entering the country by sea had almost delayed the cruise but was lifted by local authorities just over a week ago. REUTERS

FBI THWARTS POSSIBLE ATTACK ON JEWISH TARGET

2 The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested a man in South Florida for planning an attack against the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz said in a statement on Monday. A law enforcement source said the man was arrested as part of a sting operation in which federal agents operate undercover. The U.S. Attorney's office in the Southern District of Florida said a man was taken into custody on Friday in a "national security-related arrest," but there is no current threat to public safety. REUTERS

CONSERVATIVES IN CONGRESS URGE SHUTDOWN OF IRS

3 It's a U.S. taxpayer's dream: make the Internal Revenue Service go away, and the largest conservative group in Congress is endorsing just that. The Republican Study Committee, which counts over two-thirds of House of Representatives Republicans as its members, called recently for "the complete elimination of the IRS." The committee's support for this idea, once confined to the fringes of conservative ideology, suggests it is more widely accepted on Capitol Hill than ever. But many in Washington, including some Republicans, have trouble taking it seriously. Calls to abolish the IRS have not been well thought through, Republican Representative Charles Boustany said in an interview.

REUTERS

Boston University students go to and from class along Commonwealth Avenue. NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

Neo-Nazi fliers at BU prompt investigation

Posters tied to an online hate group appeared on campus over the weekend.

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An investigation is underway at Boston University after fliers apparently linked to a neo-Nazi organization popped up on campus this weekend.

Photos of the postings appeared on Facebook on Sunday. One includes the phrases "The Nazis are coming!" and "The Atom-Waffen Division Massachusetts" along with a link to a shadowy online fascism forum called IronMarch .org. Another reads "Black Lives Don't Matter."

The BU Police Department is "currently investigating who put up the posters," university spokesman Colin Riley confirmed on Monday. "We take it seriously and will see what charges we are able to file as a result of the investigation."

Riley did not answer other questions about the posters, or about how the private university plans to respond.

A person who claimed to be a spokesperson for the Atomwaffen Division reached by email told Metro the group was responsible for the fliers, and claimed that the person who put them up on the BU campus is a BU student. The spokesperson declined to identify who was responsible or to be interviewed.

A thread on the forum site describes the "Atomwaffen Division" as an "ideological band of comrades who do both activism and militant training. Hand to hand combat, arms training, and various other forms of training. As for activism, we spread awareness in the real world through unconventional means." Late Monday, the group's site was replaced by a message that read, "account suspended."

The news site The Tab reported on Sunday that the posters had been spotted outside FitRec, a gym, and inside Warren Towers, an on-campus residence.

One poster, in black-and-white, reads, "Boston University you have been visited by AtomWaffen Division. Join your local Nazis!"'

Similar posters appeared at Virginia's Old Dominion University in March.

"It's obviously disconcerting," said Zachary Bos, a BU administrator, in an interview. "I'm disappointed that there is a person in our neighborhood or on our campus who is not plugged into the better sense of our values and a greater sense of community."

Bos, an administrative coordinator for undergraduate curriculum, said he hadn't heard any announcements about the posters from leadership at the school. He also said he has brought evidence to police that he culled from the online forum suggesting a student might be involved.

Facebook user Marlo Kalb said she saw this flyer, along with another flyer saying "Black Lives don't matter," posted on a BU building and dining hall over the weekend. "Members of a neo-Nazi hate group are on our campus," she said.

This isn't the first time Boston University has been targeted with hateful speech.

The school last year investigated posters tied to a white supremacist group, which appeared around campus amid controversy over tweets from incoming Assistant Professor Saida Grundy.

Another group in the past has also solicited essays from students denying the Holocaust, Bos said.

Earlier this year, BU was among schools impacted in March by a cyberattack that caused printers to spit out anti-Semitic fliers.

The incidents send a disturbing message because advocacy from the hate group has moved from the Internet to the real world, said Robert Trestan, director of the Anti-Defamation League of New England.

"In this country, people can believe whatever they want, but the concern is: What happens when people start acting out on some of those beliefs?" Trestan said.

He said the ADL has reached out to BU. He also urged the college to confront the neo-Nazi rhetoric that arrived on campus this weekend.

"I think it's important for the community to send a message back that this is not the place to recruit. This is not the place to send a message like this because it's fruitless," he said. "The community needs to overpower this message of hate."

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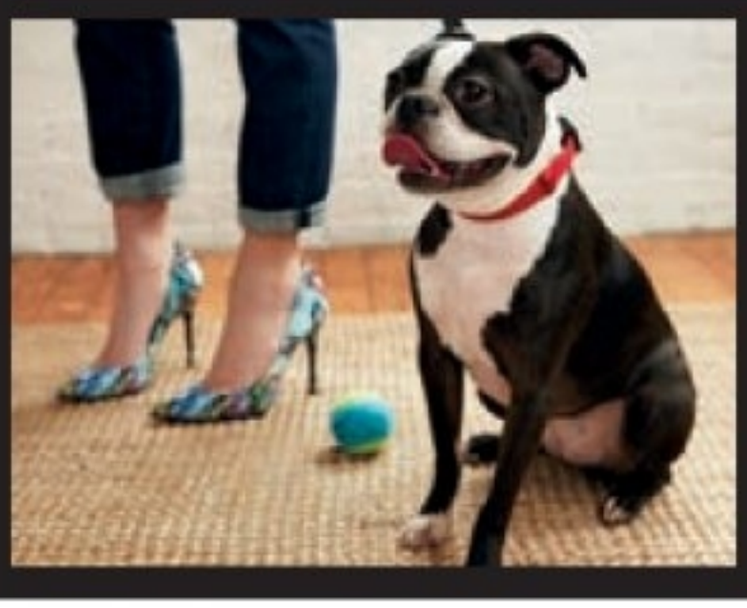

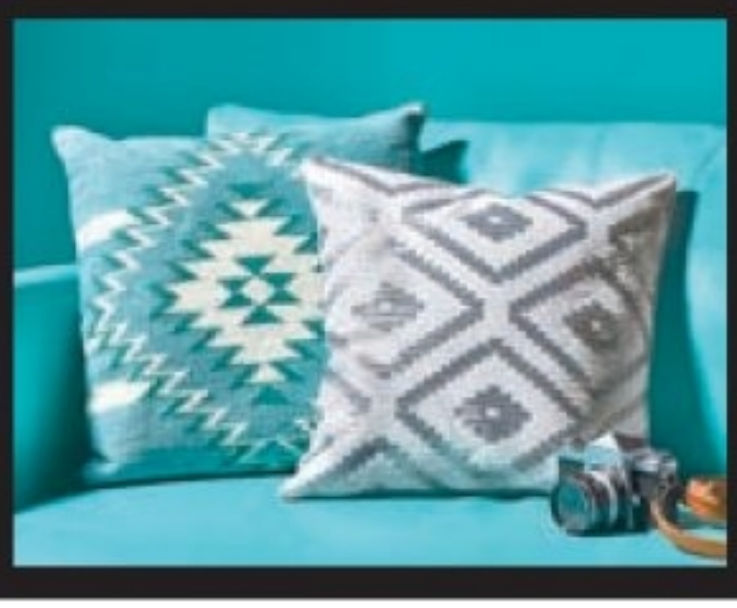

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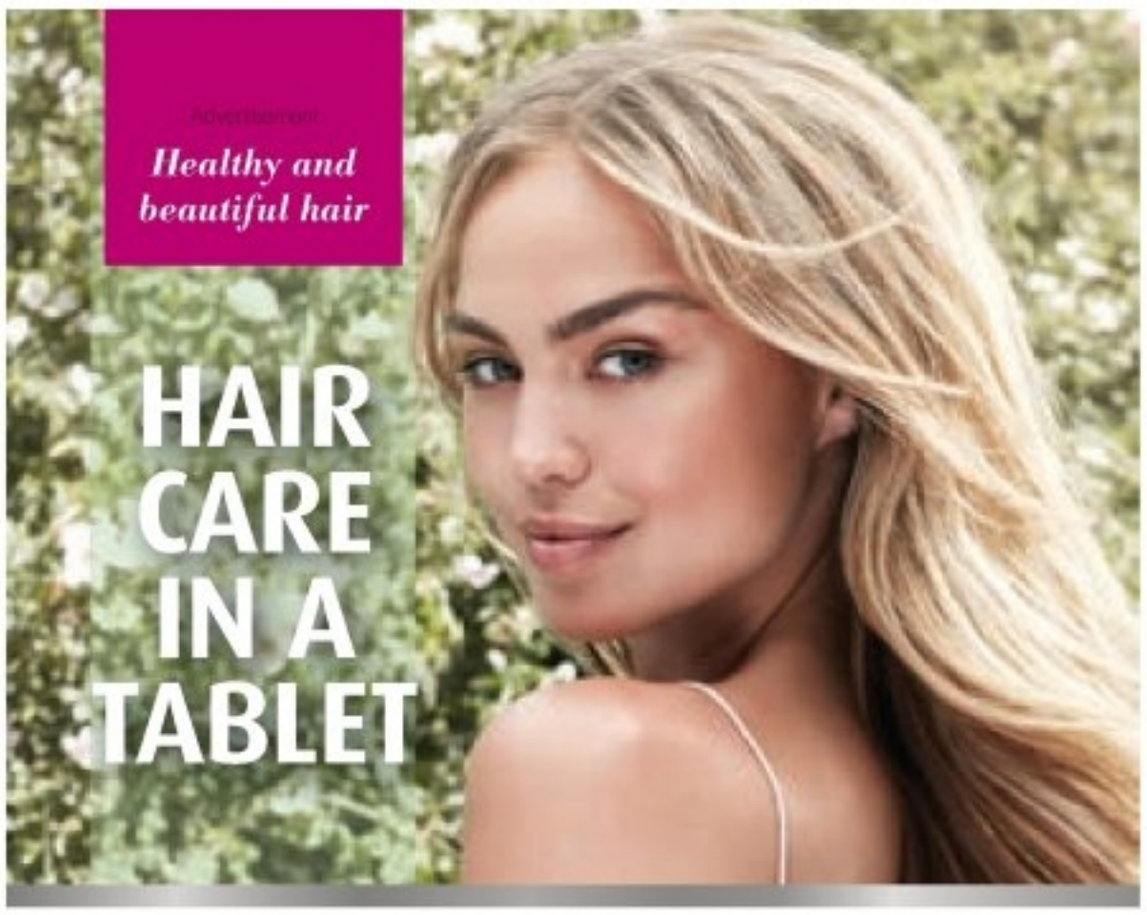

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Mobster's home searched again in Boston art heist

FBI agents brought heavy equipment in third bid to find stolen masterpieces.

JASON NUCKOLLS
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letters@metro.us

A FBI Evidence Response Team and other law enforcement were at the home of Robert Gentile, who may be a suspect in the heist. GETTY IMAGES

The FBI has launched its third search of the Manchester, Connecticut, home of convicted criminal Robert "Bobby the Cook" Gentile, who has been linked to an investigation into a 1990 Boston art theft.

On March 18, 1990, two thieves disguised as Boston police officers robbed the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum of 13 works of art, according to the Hartford Courant, which stated that the stolen art was valued at about $500 million.

On Monday around noon, FBI agents began searching the home of Robert Gentile, whose involvement has been suspected in the 26-year-old art heist though he was never charged in connection to it, the Boston Globe reported. Gentile is currently serving a sentence for illegal gun possession and selling prescription drugs.

"If they didn't find [the paintings] in the first two searches, how could they find them this time?" Gentile's attorney A. Ryan McGuigan was quoted by the Globe, commenting on this search being the FBI's third of the property in pursuit of the paintings.

Officials have put a tent in front of Gentile's Frances Drive house, and area police have blocked off the street, the Courant added. FBI agents brought heavy equipment in three trucks to help conduct the search.

McGuigan said that his client was adamant that he had no role in the robbery or knowledge of the paintings, according to the Globe.

Stolen art

Among the stolen Gardner canvases were three Rembrandts, a Vermeer and a Manet.

Shopping center shooting leaves teen injured, gunman at large

Police are investigating a Sunday afternoon shooting behind a shopping center in Rowley that injured an 18-year-old.

Around 5:15 p.m., authorities arrived behind a shopping plaza at 225 Newburyport Turnpike after receiving reports of gunshots, WCVB reported.

While at the scene, police were approached by an 18-year-old man who told authorities that he had been shot in the leg, WCVB added. The victim was treated and later released from an area hospital.

Police said the shooting does not appear to be random, WHDH reported. Though police have not made any arrests, they have identified a person of interest in connection to the incident.

"Not a random act of violence. Very safe community here. We do believe the subjects [knew] each other. And we're not concerned for the general safety of the public," Rowley Police Chief Scott A. Dumas was quoted by WHDH.

On Monday morning, authorities were locating the person of interest to conduct an interview, WHDH added. JASON NUCKOLLS

Police found a teen shot in the leg at this Rowley shopping center. GOOGLE MAPS

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Transgender flag raised at City Hall

Rare banner raising part of push for Massachusetts transgender bill.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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morgan.rousseau@metro.us

Mayor Walsh makes the announcement of the flag-raising. DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

A flag symbolizing the equality of those who identify as transgender flew outside Boston City Hall Plaza on Monday in support of anti-discrimination bills on Beacon Hill.

Activists, joined by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and City Council members, braved the rain to raise the blue and pink striped flag around 1:15 p.m. It was the third time ever that a municipality officially flew the transgender flag, according to organizers.

The flag raising followed two versions of the transgender rights legislation getting favorable reports from the Judiciary Committee, setting the stage for their passage.

The closely-monitored bills, which sat in the committee for more than a year before members voted Friday to advance them, would ban discrimination against transgender people in public spaces, and would allow transgender individuals to use public restrooms or locker rooms that match their gender identity — the bills' most controversial aspect.

The Judiciary Committee on Friday voted to give favorable reports to a Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz bill and a redrafted House bill that includes a few additional provisions.

The House redraft would take effect Jan. 1, 2017, and requires the attorney general to issue guidance and regulations for instances where people assert "gender identity for an improper purpose."

The bill is divisive, as some fear people will use it to gain access to restrooms for nefarious reasons. Supporters say it will end real access problems faced by transgender people.

The Senate plans to debate the bill May 12.

Additional reporting by State House News Service.

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The California-to-Arizona flight marks the 10th leg of the journey.

The solar-powered plane Solar Impulse 2 flies over the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco. JEAN REVILLARD VIA GETTY IMAGES

A solar-powered airplane midway through an attempt to circle the globe departed northern California on Monday on the next leg of its history-making journey, a relatively short 16-hour flight to Arizona, the project team said.

The spindly, single-seat experimental aircraft dubbed Solar Impulse 2 took off just after 5 a.m. local time from San Francisco on a flight that will take the plane over the Mojave Desert before its planned arrival in Phoenix shortly before 9:30 p.m.

Occupying the plane's tiny cockpit for Monday's trip was Swiss aviator Andre Borschberg, a co-founder of the project. He and fellow pilot Bertrand Piccard, also of Switzerland, are seeking to achieve the first round-the-world solar-powered flight, taking turns at the controls for each leg of the voyage.

Borschberg was the pilot for the Japan-to-Hawaii trip over the Pacific last July, during which he remained airborne for nearly 118 hours, or five days and five nights.

That flight shattered the 76-hour world duration record for a nonstop, solo flight set in 2006 by the late American adventurer Steve Fossett in his Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer. It also set new duration and distance records for solar-powered flight. But the feat dealt a setback to the Solar Impulse team. The plane sustained severe battery damage on the flight from Japan, requiring repairs and testing that kept the aircraft grounded in Hawaii for nine months.

Piccard completed the trans-Pacific crossing last month, reaching San Francisco after a flight of nearly three days, more than three times longer than the 18 hours it took Amelia Earhart to fly solo from Hawaii to California in the 1930s.

The biggest difference is that the Solar Impulse flies without a drop of fuel. The four engines of the propeller-driven aircraft are powered solely by energy collected from thousands of solar cells in its wings.

Surplus power is stored in four batteries during daylight hours to keep the plane flying overnight, allowing it to remain aloft around the clock on extreme long-distance flights.

The Swiss team hopes eventually to complete its circumnavigation in Abu Dhabi, where their journey began in March 2015 as part of campaign to bolster support for clean energy technologies.

In a precursor to their globe-circling quest, the two men completed a multi-flight crossing of the United States by solar power in 2013. REUTERS

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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Clinton courts Appalachian voters in early nod to Trump election showdown

Dem front-runner met union leaders and some of 600 workers laid off last year when AK Steel Holding Corp. announced it would idle a furnace in eastern Kentucky.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks to and meets Indiana voters at Lincoln Square Pancake House in Indianapolis. GETTY IMAGES

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton talked to steel workers in Appalachia about their economic struggles on Monday, as she tried to win over blue-collar voters in a part of the country where support for Republican Donald Trump is strong.

Clinton said job losses in manufacturing and the coal industry in the area had been a heavy blow.

"Talk about a ripple effect. It's just devastating communities," Clinton told workers around a table at an Italian restaurant in the town of Ashland.

She said she would look into whether assistance could be extended to Kentucky as it was to workers after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington. "It makes sense to try to do it in a more targeted way in situations like this," she said.

Clinton has pledged more than $30 billion to help regions that depend on coal, but her promise was overshadowed when she said in March that the country would "put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business."

While the Republican presidential candidates focus on Tuesday's primary in Indiana, Clinton launched a trip to Appalachia this week that will include events in Ohio and West Virginia.

She has a large lead over Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination, and is making early moves to try to siphon support from Trump, who says his outsider campaign will succeed with struggling voters. He and other Republicans accuse President Barack Obama's administration of waging a "war on coal" by imposing strict environmental regulations.

Unions typically back Democratic candidates, and union leaders have endorsed both Clinton and Sanders in the 2016 presidential race. But Trump's pro-coal, anti-trade message has resonated with some blue collar union members. REUTERS

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Trump's evangelical support put to test

Donald Trump's success in the race for the White House may well depend on the support of Republican evangelicals suspicious of the front-runner's more liberal side as he discloses his social views.

Trump has had some success with evangelicals in states such as South Carolina. But there are signs of slippage on the eve of Tuesday's nominating contest in Indiana, a conservative Midwestern state that has voted Republican in nine of the past 10 presidential elections.

Trump, 69, has taken stances on Planned Parenthood family clinics and gay and transgender rights that raise Christian conservative concerns, including in such states as Indiana where they make up a high proportion of voters.

An NBC/Wall Street Journal/Marist opinion poll shows Trump with a wide lead in Indiana, 49 percent, to 34 percent for his nearest rival, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, and 13 percent for Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Most previous Indiana opinion polls showed a tighter race with Trump leading Cruz by only a few points. A Trump win in the state could be crucial to his chances of securing the nomination but may also offer a gauge of whether he can rally evangelicals.

Cruz, 45, emphasizes his Christian faith on the campaign trail. Focused on Indiana, he says Trump is not an authentic Republican.

Trump has praised Planned Parenthood family clinics as having helped millions of women even if he opposes funding its abortion component. He backs letting transgender people use the bathroom "they feel is appropriate."

If evangelicals are unenthusiastic, they could sit out the Nov. 8 election, potentially handing the White House to former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, or her rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. REUTERS

A vendor selling Trump shirts and hats. GETTY IMAGES

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So about all that Jon Snow speculation

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Remember when everyone was freaking out about the fate of Jon Snow on "Game of Thrones" and there were all those reports about Kit Harington keeping the same hairstyle and showing up on set, but then Harington and the show's producers kept insisting that no, the character is really dead? And then remember this week when they brought him back to life? Oh sorry, spoiler warning. Here's the thing: Harington is really, really sorry about lying to all of us. "I'd like to say sorry for lying to everyone," he tells Entertainment Weekly. "I'm glad that people were upset that he died. I think my biggest fear was that people were not going to care, or it was just going to be, 'Fine, Jon Snow's dead,' but it seemed like people did have a — similar to the 'Red Wedding' episode — a kind of grief about it, which meant that something I'm doing, or that the show is doing for Jon, is right." Yes, but being so misleading about everything maybe wasn't so right, sir. Still, glad to have you back.

the word

NED EHRBAR
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J.K. Rowling still bummed about killing Lupin

Speaking of the deaths of popular fictional characters, J.K. Rowling — who has quite the made-up body count on her shoulders — is still haunted by her decision to do away with one of her favorite characters. She just can't seem to let this one go. If you're not a "Harry Potter" megafan, you'll be excused for not knowing that Monday was the anniversary of the Battle of Hogwarts, the completely made-up skirmish that ended the celebrated YA series. But just because it's a fake anniversary doesn't mean Rowling can't be sad for real. "Once again, it's the anniversary of the Battle of Hogwarts so, as promised, I shall [apologize] for a death. This year: Remus Lupin," Rowling tweeted. "In the interests of total honesty, I'd also like to confess that I didn't decide to kill Lupin until I wrote 'Order of the Phoenix.'" So, for all you Potterverse character death plans completists, there you go.

DAILY VIDEO

YOUTUBE

Clueless Gamer: Mario Kart 8

Conan O'Brien's "Clueless Gamer" series has seen him fail at some pretty awesome games, but he should be able to do just fine with the college favorite "Mario Kart." But with "Neighbors 2" stars Seth Rogen and Zac Efron along to make things interesting, this might just be the best installment yet — especially since by "make things interesting," Rogen and Efron mean drawing penises on O'Brien's face whenever he loses a round.

Julia Roberts got $3 million for four days' work

And they say the movie star system is dead. Apparently Julia Roberts can still command a hefty paycheck, at least when it's with her "Pretty Woman" director, Garry Marshall. Roberts' role in "Mother's Day" called for a total of four days of shooting, and for her troubles she was paid $3 million. Nice work if you can get it. But was it worth it? The film — which was utterly trashed by critics — brought in $8.3 million its opening weekend. So they've at least made enough to pay for Roberts, right?

No more fan photos with Amy Schumer

Great. Just great. One obnoxious South Carolina dude has gone and ruined all the fun for the rest of us, as Amy Schumer has instituted a strict "no photos with fans" policy following a particularly unpleasant run-in. "This guy in front of his family just ran up next to me scared the s— out of me," Schumer explained on Instagram, along with a photo of the man in question. "Put a camera in my face. I asked him to stop and he said, 'No, it's America and we paid for you.' This was in front of his daughter. I was saying stop and no. Great message to your kid. Yes legally you are allowed to take a picture of me. But I was asking you to stop and saying no. I will not take pictures with people anymore and it's because of this dude in Greenville." Way to ruin it for the rest of us, buddy.

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Jeremy Irons explains how everything is bad

The Oscar-winner talks "The Man Who Knew Infinity" and gets grim about the world's future.

MATT PRIGGE
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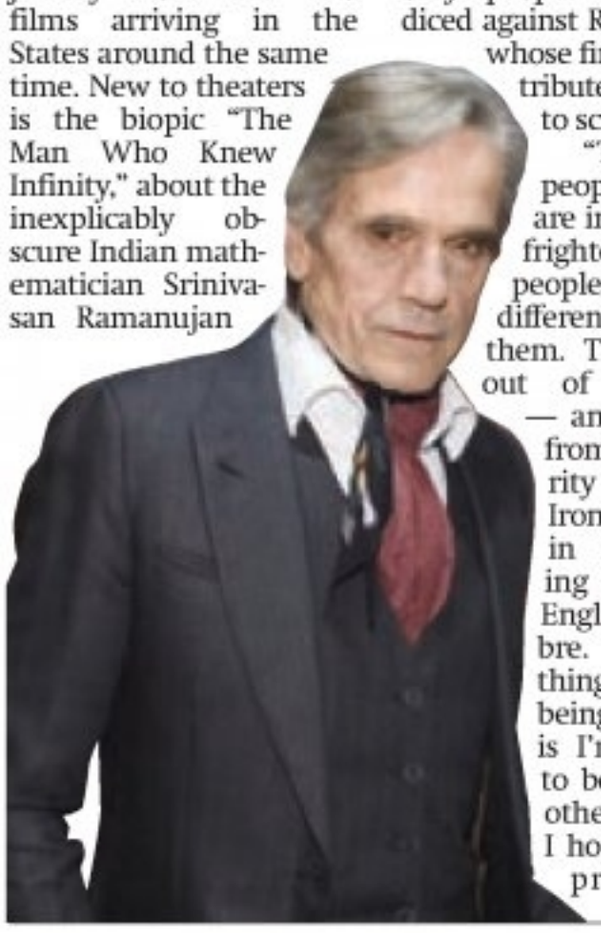
matt.prigge@metro.us

Jeremy Irons has two films arriving in the States around the same time. New to theaters is the biopic "The Man Who Knew Infinity," about the inexplicably obscure Indian mathematician Srinivasan Ramanujan (played by Dev Patel). Mid-May brings "High-Rise," based on J.G. Ballard's classic novel. The first is about prejudice; the other is about societal collapse. Irons loves talking about both.



In "Infinity" the Oscar-winner plays a math legend who's one of the only people not prejudiced against Ramanujan, whose findings contributed mightily to science.

"There are people who are instinctively frightened of people who are different from them. That comes out of prejudice — and, I think, from insecurity and fear," Irons tells us in his soothing yet coarse English timbre. "The great thing about being an actor is I'm so used to being inside other people. I hope I'm not prejudiced. I mean, I get cross with some people for their narrow-mindedness or their lack of care or their apathy. But that has nothing to do with their race, religion or color."

"Infinity's" real-life story is set over a century ago, but it has obvious resonance today, when the political theater has been reactivating deep-seated prejudices, both here and in Irons' homeland. Part of the reason, he thinks, is the failure of our leaders.

"All over the world people are losing faith in their politicians," Irons surmises. "They're running our countries on purely economic rather than idealistic terms. I think that's a mistake. Politicians should have the strength to say, 'What kind of country, what kind of world do we want? Let's make our economy create that for us, rather than just following the dollar or the pound.'"

Irons rattles off a laundry list of societal ills that aren't being addressed. He floats the idea, being considered in Finland, of paying everyone a wage whether they're employed or not. He predicts another economic collapse, bigger than the one in 2008, because we still have unregulated markets. He also challenges the notion — ingrained in the West since after World War II — that buying things makes us happy.

Jeremy Irons plays G.H. Hardy, a mathematician at Cambridge who helped spread the word about Srinivasan Ramanujan (Dev Patel), a prodigy plucked from poverty in India, in the biopic "The Man Who Knew Infinity." IFC FILMS

It's here that what started as a conversation about "Infinity" and bigotry turns into a discussion more in line with "High-Rise," in which Ballard created a dirty, violent, darkly hilarious allegory about an apartment building whose inhabitants turn to tribalism, feral instincts and violence.

"You have a huge underclass in Europe and America who have nothing to lose. And that's when revolutions start. We can't allow that to happen," Irons says. "That's why when [Donald] Trump stands up and starts spouting what I call 'bar-room politics,' they're very attractive. The man on the street says, 'Yeah, let's make America great again!' What the f— does that mean?"

Irons points out that's happening in England as well. Brits have their Bernie Sanders, he says, in Jeremy Corbyn, who "really believes in his ideology but is, sadly, maybe not a political animal in quite the way that makes a leader." And they have Nigel Farage, an "idiot," Irons says, "who is a bit like Trump, who spouts off in fairly unthought-out ways about things that are wrong — which is easy to do if you're not in the driving seat and you have to get it right." As such, some in England find Farage very attractive.

But there's one big difference between America and England. Irons adds, wryly: "The English have a nose for charlatans."

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Bringing up Babymetal

The Japanese metal band chats Kobametal, the fox god and selfie goals.

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In a manner similar to DC Comics creation of the Justice League or Marvel's Fantastic Four, Japanese producer Kobametal — a Tokyo-based, hard rock Simon Cowell, if you will — formed Babymetal in 2010 with three young "idol music" female musicians set to play the parts of sugar-coated heroines who would mashup flashy J-pop and crunchy heavy metal.

Since that time, rather than use their real names or ever speak out of character, Su-metal (Suzuka Nakamoto), Moametal (Moa Kikuchi) and Yui-metal (Yui Mizuno) sing in sweet, playful tones, but hammer and pummel their riff-heavy melodies for a scorching sound that is uniquely theirs and theirs alone on two cute, cutting albums: their eponymous 2014 debut and their newly released "Metal Resistance."

Note: The band only speaks Japanese and Babymetal's Su-metal answered these questions via email through a translator.

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Yuimetal, from left, Su-metal and Moametal of Babymetal flash the fox god hand sign. GETTY IMAGES

What were you listening to as young metal heads before joining the band?
We didn't know anything about metal. We thought it was scary music. The first time we listened to metal we were like "What in the world is this?" We learned the greatness of metal when we started as Babymetal.

What drives your specific brand of heavy metal?
Under the guise of "metal resistance," we aim to create a new genre called babymetal and become one-of-a-kind — an *only one* existence.

How surprised were you when members of Metallica, Bring Me the Horizon and Slayer stated that they were big fans of your group?
We were glad. It builds up our confidence to just be ourselves.

Kobametal claims to be inspired by the mysterious deity called the "fox god." Who is this god to you and how would you describe your collaboration?
We have never met the fox god in person so we hope to see him someday. The fox god always prophesies things that defy our imagination so there may be surprising collaborations in the future.

Most metal music has the reputation of menace behind it; evil. How does that jive with the role model aspect of idol music? How do you make that connection a positive one?
Babymetal has the originality of making a mixture of intense metal sound and cute, cool dance. We are aiming to do what the other existing metal bands can't do.

I read that your producer Kobametal has stated that babymetal music can unite the world. Was that a big part of making the new album?
During our world tour in 2015, there were moments that we became together with the audience by singing in Japanese and dancing. "The One" is a song that includes that passion the most. We want to cross borders and overcome language barriers and become one, together with Babymetal's music.

Do you feel as if you have been accepted by American audiences? How does that differ, so far, from your Japanese audiences who go crazy for the three of you?
The American audience has always, without fail, shown us very real emotions. At festivals, there are people who just see how we perform at first, but as the show goes on they show us their fox signs and I think most of the audience gets loud when we perform our danceable songs. The American audience sings along [with] Su-metal's melody more than the Japanese audience.

Who have you most wanted to take selfies with during your travels?
We haven't been able to take a photo with Iron Maiden, so we hope we could someday.

Thinking of your future, do you hope to be singing metal music as you get older?
We want to establish our genre called babymetal, so until we accomplish that goal we'll press forward through uncharted roads, but only the fox god knows!

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Why does flexibility matter, anyway?

Plus, moves to help you improve.

EMILY LAURENCE
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We're told it's important to be flexible as early as elementary school. Remember the sit-and-reach part of the Presidential Fitness Test? As adults, yoga is touted as the thing to do. But what if cardio is more your thing? Or what if you generally live a healthful lifestyle already? What good will stretching for you? Dr. Jake Mayes, owner of 100% Chiropractic, fills us in.

It keeps your spine strong

Mayes says a strong spine is essential to overall health. "Your body has innately put a giant bony structure around the most important thing in your body," he says. Plus, when someone has minimal flexibility, it causes the muscles in the upper back, neck, lower back and abdomen to weaken — basically everything along the spine. Simply put: Flexibility keeps your spine and the muscles that surround it strong.

Counteracts sitting all day

Mayes says sitting at a desk all day causes repetitive muscle patterns in your neck and midback. "The patterns can lead to neck and shoulder pain," he says. "The muscles weaken and then it can hurt to sit up straight." Bad posture can become your body's default because it's so used to it, but flexibility prevents that.

It makes you a better athlete

Many athletes who focus solely on cardio neglect improving their flexibility. But Mayes says a weak spine can cause a lot of issues. "If there's a problem with your spine, it will move down to your pelvis, knees and ankles," he says. "It will get locked in so you have tight muscles and then you aren't moving correctly. This leads to knee and hip pain."

Moves for improving your flexibility

As a chiropractor, Dr. Mayes recommends making an appointment so you can get your spine checked out. Since everyone is different, the home stretches someone is "prescribed" differ from person to person. But in general, some good stretches to do every morning and night are:

Simple toe touch
There's no getting out of this one. Touch your toes, one leg at a time. Hold for five seconds, letting the tension build and then release the tension for five seconds. Repeat five times per leg.

Cross-body stretch
Start on your hands and knees. Lift your left arm to the sky and slide it all the way through the space between your right arm and right leg. Hold for a few breaths, feeling the stretch in your shoulders and upper back. Repeat on the other side.

Side stretch
With your feet together, stretch your right hand overhead. Inhale and exhale deeply. Repeat with the left side.

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Red Sox in a good spot one month in

The Red Sox take on the best team in the AL this week in Chicago.

MATT BURKE
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David Ortiz and Hanley Ramirez celebrate the Red Sox's sweep over the Yankees this past weekend. GETTY IMAGES

It doesn't exactly feel like the magical year of 2013 for the Red Sox just yet but there's been plenty of reason to think this year will be better than 2014 and last year.

The Sox swept the Yankees this past weekend at Fenway and while New York looks like a basement dweller, there was some magic in the ballpark for the first time in a long time.

Last Friday night, in particular, felt different. The Red Sox found themselves in an 0-2 hole against their rivals before Jackie Bradley Jr. drove in a pair of runs with a double in the seventh and David Ortiz blasted a game-winning two-run home run to left center in the eighth.

In addition to the feel-good vibes, the Red Sox' numbers are solid as well. Dustin Pedroia is batting .324 on the season. Xander Bogaerts is at .306. Travis Shaw is at .322. David Ortiz has a team-leading five home runs and 19 RBIs.

Pitching-wise, Steven Wright (2-2, 1.37 ERA) and Rick Porcello (5-0, 2.76 ERA) have been pleasant surprises. New closer Craig Kimbrel had a few bumps in the road in his first month in Boston, but he does have eight saves on the year.

Unless David Price (4-0, 6.14 ERA) turns out to be the free agent bust of all free agent busts, it's likely that he'll correct his issues soon.

All told, so far so good for the 2016 Red Sox. They're in first place in the AL East with a 15-10 record. A year ago on May 3, they were 12-13. On May 3, 2014 they were 15-16. On May 3 during the championship season three years ago, they were 20-9.

Early season test

The Red Sox can make a huge statement this week in Chicago as they'll take on the team with the most wins in the majors, the White Sox, who own an 18-8 record. Wright will get the ball for the Red Sox in the series opener and will square off against Jose Quintana. Clay Buchholz will look to get on track Wednesday night when he takes on John Danks. Henry Owens is slated to get the ball for the Sox on Thursday in the series finale and Chicago will counter with Carlos Rodon.

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MLB power rankings | by Ryan Hannable

No. 1
Cubs (17-6)
With a plus-78 run differential, the Cubs remain at No. 1 in our weekly rankings. Dexter Fowler has a .350 BA so far in 2016.

No. 2
White Sox (18-8)
Many expected them to be good, but not this good. Jose Quintana and Chris Sale are leading the way with the fourth- and fifth-best ERAs in the AL.

No. 3
Nationals (17-7)
Washington has won three games in a row and continues to be led by Bryce Harper and his nine home runs and 24 RBIs - both in the top five in the NL. Also, Daniel Murphy is hitting .365.

No. 4
Mets (15-8)
The Mets are one of the hottest teams in the game as they have won eight of 10 and now only trail the Nats by a game and a half. Neil Walker now has nine homers.

No. 5
Phillies (15-10)
No team in the majors is hotter than the surprise Phillies right now as they have won six games in a row. Vince Velasquez owns a 1.44 ERA.

No. 6
Red Sox (15-10)
Coming off a sweep of the Yankees, the Red Sox are heading in the right direction. The biggest thing for them going forward is to get David Price and Clay Buchholz on the right path.

No. 7
Pirates (15-10)
Pittsburgh is another team on fire as it has won eight of its last 10 to only trail the Cubs by three games in the division. Their run differential isn't great (plus-18) though.

No. 8
Tigers (14-10)
It was only a matter of time before the Tigers got things going as they have now won five straight to get within striking distance of Chicago.

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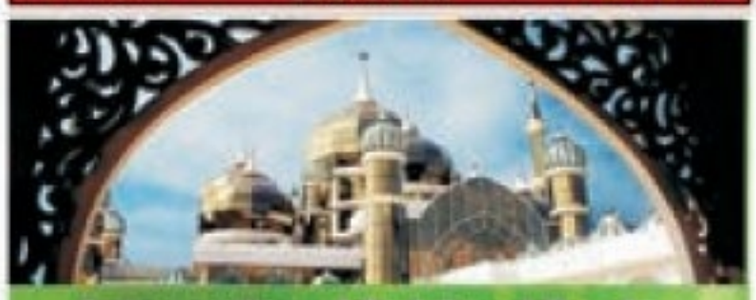

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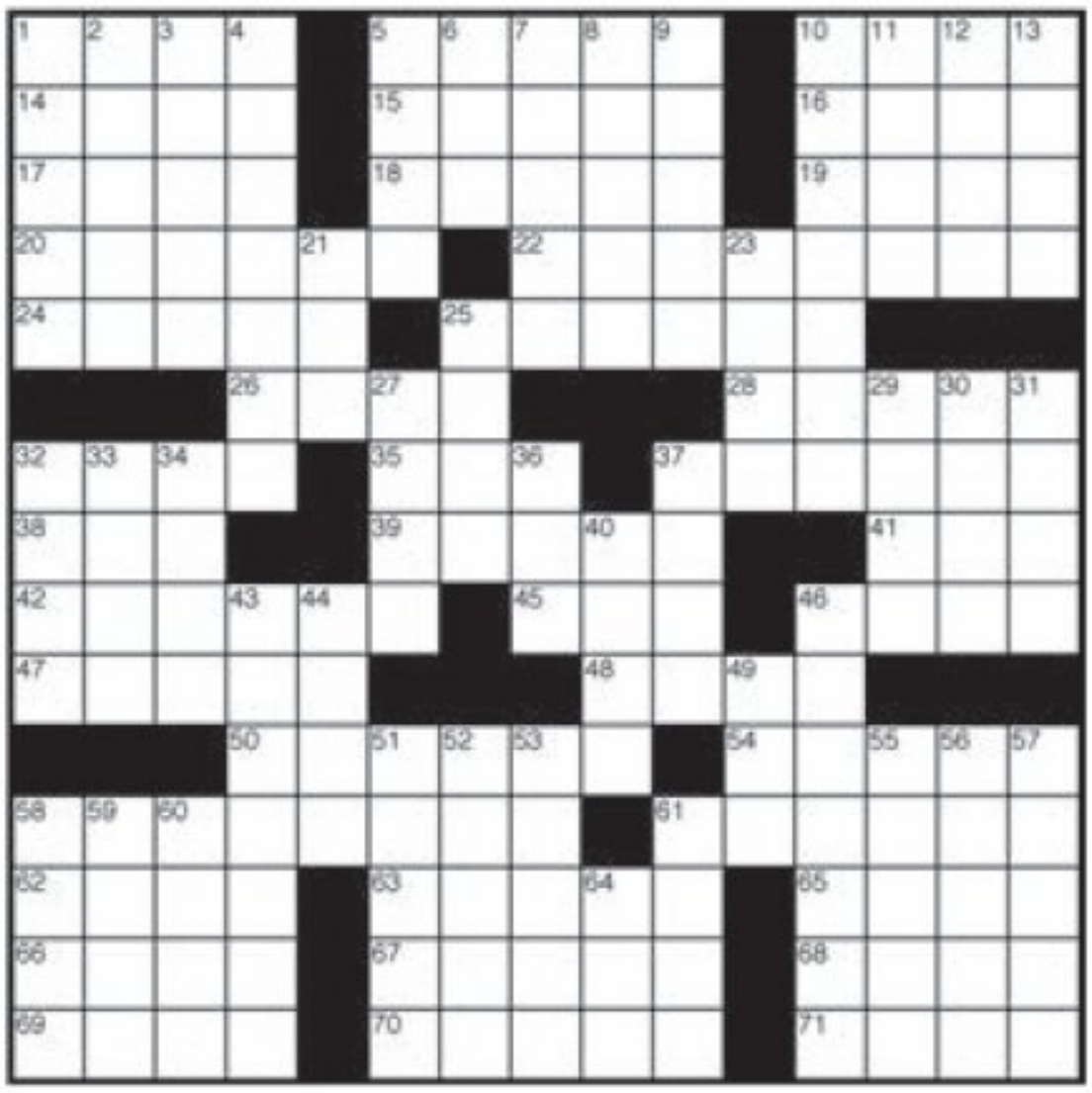

Across

1 Dotty
5 Pub sign (2 wds.)
10 Tooth problem
14 FitzGerald's poet
15 Hearth
16 Quarry
17 Thick mud
18 Sand mandala builders
19 Fishing place
20 Break loose
22 In the cards
24 Loses hair
25 Crusty roll
26 Mortgage, e.g.
28 Won't hold water
32 Jane, to Tarzan
35 Swell, in space (hyph.)
37 Uncultivated
38 Bucket material
39 Carthage neighbor
41 I've got it!
42 Insect's middle
45 Family man
46 To the — (fully)
47 Hairpin curves
48 "Fancy" singer
50 Macbeth's weapon
54 Banded stone
58 Mountaineering aids
61 Shook a tail
62 Belgian river
63 Gunslinger's tally
65 Mythic warmonger
66 Earnest request
67 Manicurist's board
68 Descartes' name
69 Ticket info
70 Stretches out
71 Wheel's partner

Down

1 Geodesic —
2 Buggy drivers
3 Silly comedy
4 Potter's foot lever
5 Give the glad eye
6 D.C. lobbyist
7 Bay or city
8 Video-game pioneer
9 Pedro's coins
10 Raiment
11 Bin
12 Despicable one
13 Fictional governess
21 Air-pump meas.
23 Mr. Lugosi
25 No-frills hairdo
27 — de vie (brandies)
29 Jai --
30 Ancient cosmetic
31 Flatten a fly
32 Dust particle
33 Sighs of relief
34 Ring stats
36 Nanny's charge
37 Lose brightness
40 John Dickson — of who-dunits
43 Lamb, for one (2 wds.)
44 PDQ
46 Hollow-eyed
49 Meadow murmur
51 Lost cause
52 Troll
53 Basso Simon —
55 Think alike
56 — Marie of pop
57 Detroit dud
58 CBer's "bears"
59 Rub the wrong way
60 Offshore
61 Motives
64 Monitor of yore

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easy

6			4			2		
	4	8					9	
5				1				6
			6		9		7	1
8		6				4		5
4	7		2		5			
1				3				7
	6					9	8	
		4			8			2

hard

						7		
8	5				7	3		
	4	6	5		8	2	9	
9	3	4			6			
			7			4	2	9
	6	5	3		4	8	1	
		9	8				3	4
		3						

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries A chance to make money or negotiate and sign a contract that offers long-term security is within reach. Embrace change, and don't settle for less than what you want.

Taurus An outgoing attitude coupled with your expertise will bolster your chances of advancement. An opening will spark your interest, and an unexpected offer will be presented.

Gemini Help someone in need, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Bring about changes that will help secure your personal or professional future.

Cancer Spend time with people you haven't seen in a while. A fresh and lively conversation will result in opportunities that will help you improve your life. Romance will liven things up.

Leo Someone will speak out against you if you are too pushy. Take a step back and concentrate on what you can do to improve physically. Discipline will counter excess.

Virgo If you speak up, you will reach someone who feels as you do regarding community concerns. By joining forces, you will bring about positive change.

Libra New friendships or business connections will bring you closer to your goals. Good fortune and advancement will be yours if you stand up for your beliefs. Communicate your feelings.

Scorpio Share your ideas. A business partnership will give you an opportunity to spend more time exploring your creative options. Romance will inspire you to reach for the stars.

Sagittarius If you refrain from exaggerating, you will avoid being questioned. Stay focused on what you can do, and bring about positive changes that will help balance your emotions.

Capricorn Your ability to wheel and deal will lead to unexpected gains and personal rewards. Making plans to celebrate with a loved one will bring you closer together.

Aquarius Choose your words carefully. Taking action will bring better results than laboring over details with an opponent. A professional change will turn out better than anticipated.

Pisces Your restlessness combined with someone's demands will lead to an unsavory encounter if you let your emotions surface. Work independently. EUGENIA LAST

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